1:Spier E-5 (1929-1932) 1933 NT15 River Yumans NT15
Maricopa
Halchidhoma

enough, 'Perhaps she wants something to eat or wear that I can not give her," and let her go to her lover. He made no attempt to harm either of them. But he would never have anything to do with her hereafter. 593 837 [586]

X left his first wife, who took her infant son with her when she married a Kohuana. The Kohuana could not have been more fond of the boy had he been his own son. For instance, when the lad was returning from a visit to the Mohave, he injured his foot badly. His companions who came ahead reported that he might die of thirst in the desert. The Kohuana step-father immediately rode out to fetch him. X would have nothing to do with his ex-wife. He always drove the lad away with a stick and extended this unkindness to his son's children. People nowask why those children care for X, now that he is old, since he treated them so baily, but they reply simply that he is their relative and needs their help. 593

Women fought to retain the affections of unfaithful husbands. If a man was repeatedly remiss, his wife would give him up to her rival. If he left him for this reason, he might try to persuade her to return but she would refuse. She went to her relatives to live, because her husband was bringing a new wife to his home. However, if they had children, the wife would stay with her children. If nevertheless she decided to marry again, she told no one, not even the children, whom she abandoned there. Such abandonment is confirmed by an incident related below. 586 [837] 587

Ordinarily a barren wife was divorced. It was a common saying that a home was incomplete without children. Occasionally the wife might be kept if she was good-natured and industrious, and an additional wife might be taken. Both sexes were known to be impotent: they were called yĕsa'a'n. 586 [833]

Much the same attitude was displayed to a wife who bore girls. Girl babies were not wanted: they always said a girl was an enemy because she might some day be married to an enemy and tell how to attack her own people. If the wife of a first marriage bore a girl first, her husband discarded her; but if she bore a boy, his people praised her. 842 586

While the Halchidhoma were still on the Colorado, a woman bore no children, so her husband sent her away. She married another man—it was his first marriage—and bore him a girl. His family made him put her away and take another wife. The woman said it was not right to raise a girl who had no father, implying it was no better than a bastard. It ought to be killed; so she threw the baby into the river. [847]